

## Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest Winners Announced

**Six children, ages 6 to 12, received recognition and prizes.**

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The six winners of the American Humane Association's Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest recently were announced. Six children from across the United States who are devoted to helping animals were named winners in the American Humane Association's Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest, which honors kids who've gone out of their way to improve animals' lives.

Two grand-prize winners will receive \$2,000 each and an American Humane prize package, while four runners-up will receive \$750 and a prize package.

The awardees have dedicated much of their free time to helping animals, from volunteering at animal shelters to raising funds by making and selling knickknacks.

"These children ably demonstrate the qualities that help create a more humane and caring society. They are inspiring examples and role models for children and adults alike," said Marie Belew Wheatley, American Humane president and CEO.

The Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest grand-prize winners are:

Molly Knox, age 6, Pitman, N.J.

Molly established "Molly Knox Pet Socks" in 2002 to help local cats in shelters and rescue organizations. She gathers socks from her friends and recycles them, turning them into catnip-stuffed toys. She then sells them and donates the money to local animal rescue organizations or gives them to cats in animal shelters. With money she has raised, she has also purchased four sets of animal oxygen masks for the local fire company.

Sharlyne Legere, age 11, Riverside, Calif.

After a local therapy dog named Havoc became ill and needed expensive surgery to save his life, Sharlyne took action. She raised \$200 by making and selling beaded jewelry and crosses. Her compassion inspired the community to raise \$14,000.

The four runners-up are: Candice Dickerson, age 12, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio; Clay Ferguson, age 11, of San Leandro, Calif.; Madison Ashworth, age 9, of Thayne, Wyo.; and Clare Konieczko, age 9, of Warren, Mich.

Be Kind to Animals Week 2007, observed May 6 to 12, celebrates the companionship, friendship and love that animals bring into people's lives. Animal shelters throughout the country are holding special events during the week to raise awareness about being kind to animals and to teach people about the benefits of the human-animal bond.

The 2008 Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest will begin accepting nominations in March 2008, and American Humane will announce the winners during next year's Be Kind to Animals Week, which is from May 4 to 10, 2008.

For more information on Be Kind to Animals Week, and for tips on showing kindness to animals, [click here](#).